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1970/04/09



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Department of State

TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT☐ CHANGE TOPOL Chicom-45
051913

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W. 542

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INFO: Amembassy VIENTIANE

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Cat A - Caption removed;
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Cat C - Caption and custody
retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Raymond L. Perkins FSO.2

Date: 5/28 1975

1. Embassy should arrange transmittal of following letter from President to Chou En-lai asap through Embassy liaison officer for contacts with Chinese. Original letter being pouched and should also be transmitted when received to Chinese Embassy.
2. We do not plan at this time to make letter public. You may inform Chinese of this. FYI: If there any change in this decision, guidance as to future press handling will be sent separately. END FYI;
3. April 7, 1970

Text as received from
The White House

DRAFTING DATE

4-8-70

TEL EXT

20708

APPROVED BY

EA - Jonathan

Moore

CLEARANCES

EA/ACA - Mr. Kreisberg

S/S - Mr. Eliot

White House (not to be used)

Mr. J. Holmberg

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INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT☐ CHANGE TO

CONTINUATION SHEET Page 2.

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Dear Mr. Premier:

(para) I have viewed with concern the continuing deterioration of the situation in Laos. Because of this concern, I wrote on March 6 to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics asking for their assistance in achieving full compliance with the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos. In my letter I supported the appeal of the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Laos to the Co-Chairmen to bring about consultations among the signatories of the Geneva Agreements on Laos in accordance with Article IV of the Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos.

(para) On March 16 Prime Minister Wilson sent a most helpful reply indicating his Government's willingness to engage in these consultations. On the other hand, in his

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CONTINUATION SHEET Page 3.

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ACTION

letter of March 13, Chairman Kosygin, while admitting that there were violations of the Geneva Agreements, indicated that his Government would take no actions to encourage the holding of consultations. I have written again to Chairman Kosygin reiterating my Government's view that the Soviet Government should act in accordance with its obligations under the Geneva Agreements and undertake consultations as required by Article IV of the Declaration.

(para) Since the People's Republic of China is not only a signatory of the Geneva Agreements, but also a neighbor of Laos, the present situation there must be for your government a subject of concern. I am aware that our interpretations of the situation in Laos and in particular of the important problem of foreign intervention may be quite different, but I think that it is

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

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☐ CHARGE TO

CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 4

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in the interest of all the signatories now in 1970, as it was in 1962, that Laos be permitted to enjoy independence, neutrality and peace. It is my firm belief that in addition to the talks among the Lao themselves, which we hope will successfully resolve some of the internal Lao problems, it is essential for the signatories of the Geneva Agreements to consult with the Royal Lao Government and among themselves to consider measures which might prove necessary to ensure the sovereignty, independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Laos.

(para) I would welcome, Mr. Premier, your thoughts on Article IV Consultations and any other steps which you think might be taken to help bring about peace in Laos.

(para) Sincerely,

(signed) Richard Nixon

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

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Page 5

4. Letter should be transmitted under brief covering letter from Ambassador to Charge requesting that President's letter be forwarded to Premier Chou, and indicating that letters are also being sent to the other signatories of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

5. Report time of delivery and any Chinese reaction.

END

[ROGERS]

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